

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In his press briefings on Monday and Tuesday of this week, White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan cited "an ongoing investigation" more than 30 times to justify his repeated refusal to answer questions about Karl Rove's involvement in revealing the identity of a covert CIA operative.

Mr. McClellan refused to answer even simple questions about whether or not what Mr. Rove did was "right" – not whether it was "legal," but whether it was right. The legality of Mr. Rove's actions may be an open matter, but his acknowledged actions were clearly wrong. We are writing to you because we believe those actions merit Mr. Rove's immediate departure from your Administration.


America is a country that stands for justice and that demands that those in government are held to high ethical standards. The admitted actions of Mr. Rove violated both those standards and your own statements on this matter, and therefore we call on you to dismiss Mr. Rove.

On September 29, 2003, Mr. McClellan said that "the President knows that Karl Rove wasn't involved." The very next day, you stated that "if there is a leak out of my Administration, I want to know who it is. And if that person has violated the law, the person will be taken care of."

Mr. President, there should be no splitting of hairs here; it is a fact that Mr. Rove was directly involved in the exposure of Valerie Plame's identity. The credibility of your Administration will only deteriorate further should you take no action on this matter.

We urge you to follow through on your word, to clear the air on this issue, and send the message to the entire nation that actions such as those taken by Mr. Rove will not be tolerated. There has never been a more important time for U.S. intelligence agents to be able to do their work unimpeded; the threats posed by terrorists are simply too great. Our national security requires that we protect the identity of undercover agents and that sacred responsibility clearly is more important than personal relationships or political posturing.

Sincerely,


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


George Miller
United States Representative